

I rarely contact my legislators because there is rarely a subject that drives me to the point where I believe it is necessary. Today I am providing my testimony to urge your **opposition to SB 1094 - An Act Banning Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines.**

I am a 35 year old business professional. I don't play golf, I don't watch football, and I don't gamble. I shoot. I hunt, I compete in matches, and I train with some of the finest instructors in the country for defensive firearm use. That after all, is why I carry a firearm - to defend my family and myself should - God forbid - the need ever arise.

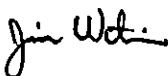
Restricting the capacity of a firearm magazine does nothing to deter crime or reduce crime. It is not the tool, but the intent or will of the person using it that determines whether it will be used for good or for evil. It doesn't matter if you're talking about a gun, a car, a brick, a knife, a spoon or any other inanimate object.

Responsible gun owners like me have invested thousands of dollars in both firearms and equipment that cannot be easily replaced. As proposed, SB 1094 would render illegal hundreds or thousands of dollars of "high capacity" magazines for each gun owner. Costing \$30-\$50 each, it adds up quickly. The State demands that I destroy hundreds or thousands of dollars worth of my property for what gain? Who becomes safer? Who will reimburse me for the loss of my hard-earned money that I spent over the last 14 years to acquire this equipment?

What we need in Connecticut are not more restrictions that only impact "the good guys" but teeth for the existing laws to truly impact the criminals. Too many times on the Connecticut news we see that a violent criminal who has already committed crimes of violence is back at it again when they should be behind bars. The criminals committing the heinous acts of violence clearly do not care about existing laws against murder, carrying a firearm without a license, or taking drugs... why would they care about breaking a silly law involving magazine capacity?

In closing, I will share with you that my wife and I relocated to Connecticut a few years ago so that she could pursue a significant career opportunity. We sold a virtually brand new house on a few acres of beautiful land for this opportunity. In recent months, we have been considering next steps on where to call "home" permanently. The knowledge that numerous unnecessary and restrictive firearm laws are being considered by my legislators while Connecticut's financial and employment status are at embarrassing levels is weighing heavily on our thoughts. We will be taking this into consideration when it comes to deciding where we keep our family's tax dollars.

Respectfully,



Jim Williams

Hamden, CT